

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 62**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Butler and Feuer)**  
(Coauthors: Senators Lieu, Liu, and Pavley)

May 23, 2011

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 62—Relative to Read Across California Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 62, as introduced, Brownley. Read Across California Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March of every year as Read Across California Month and request that various stakeholders work together to raise awareness of the importance of reading to young children and the importance of independent reading among our pupils and citizens of California by encouraging everyone to read for 30 minutes for 30 days during the month of March, in conjunction with the Read Across America campaign held annually on March 2.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Reading is a fundamental skill that is the
- 2 cornerstone of a life of academic success as well as a fulfilling
- 3 adult life. The ability to learn about new subjects, to find necessary
- 4 information on issues ranging from health problems and consumer
- 5 protection, and to pursue academic research in science and the
- 6 arts, depends upon the ability to read; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The frequency and regularity of reading
- 8 independently has a direct correlation to the level of reading skills.
- 9 The more a person reads, the better they become at reading; and

1 WHEREAS, Reading out loud to children increases their interest  
2 in mastering reading and exposes children to proper vocabulary,  
3 grammar, and phrasing, and enhances the development of their  
4 own reading skills; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the Nation's Report Card, in  
6 California, 54 percent of grade 4 pupils and 64 percent of grade 8  
7 pupils tested in early 2009 scored at or above the basic reading  
8 level, a measure indicating a partial mastery of grade-level content.  
9 Comparatively, this is below national estimates suggesting 66  
10 percent of all grade 4 pupils and 74 percent of all grade 8 pupils  
11 scored at basic or above levels; and

12 WHEREAS, The 2010 Standardized Testing and Reporting  
13 (STAR) Program for the California Standards Tests reported that  
14 only 52 percent of pupils grades 2 to 11, inclusive, were proficient  
15 in English-Language Arts; and

16 WHEREAS, The Public Policy Institute of California's report,  
17 "Lessons in Reading Reform: Finding What Works" (2010),  
18 highlights the fact that struggling elementary and middle school  
19 pupils who are given extra time for reading can make sizable gains  
20 in literacy; and

21 WHEREAS, The State Department of Education states that  
22 reading is important, both inside and outside of the school  
23 environment. Reading and literacy skills provide pupils with the  
24 keys to lifelong learning. The more pupils read, the better readers  
25 they will become. Every effort should be made both at school and  
26 at home to get pupils to do as much reading as possible; and

27 WHEREAS, According to the National Assessment of  
28 Educational Progress (NAEP) 1994 Reading Assessment, 87  
29 percent of pupils who reported reading for fun on their own time  
30 once a month or more performed at the proficient level, while 13  
31 percent of pupils who reported never or hardly ever reading for  
32 fun performed at the basic level; and

33 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics now  
34 recognizes the importance of early reading experiences and  
35 recommends daily reading to children from at least six months of  
36 age; and

37 WHEREAS, A United States Department of Education analysis  
38 found that children who were read to at least three times a week  
39 by a family member were almost twice as likely to score in the top

1 25 percent in reading than children who were read to less than  
2 three times a week; and

3 WHEREAS, Studies on emergent literacy have shown that  
4 children who are read to from an early age are more successful at  
5 learning to read; and

6 WHEREAS, In conjunction with the Read Across America  
7 campaign held annually on March 2, this measure would establish  
8 the Read Across California reading initiative, which would  
9 encourage the citizens of California to read for 30 minutes for 30  
10 days during the month of March; and

11 WHEREAS, Private and public sector organizations and  
12 agencies, as well as private and public citizens, may participate in  
13 this reading initiative to let our pupils know that their academic  
14 success and reading ability is important to the economy, stability,  
15 and prosperity of the State of California; and

16 WHEREAS, Participants from the public and private sectors  
17 may participate in reading to children in the public schools,  
18 libraries, or other appropriate community facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, This public awareness campaign would be  
20 implemented through private and public partnerships and not seek  
21 state funding at this time; and

22 WHEREAS, The Read Across California initiative will foster  
23 a love of reading and encourage our young people and all citizens  
24 of our state to explore the many exciting wonders of the world  
25 through books; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of  
28 March of every year as Read Across California Month; and be it  
29 further

30 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests stakeholders including  
31 the California Library Association, First 5 California, public school  
32 districts, the California Association of Independent Schools, Los  
33 Angeles Universal Preschool, the State Board of Education,  
34 Literacy Alliance, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the  
35 State Department of Education, parent-teacher associations, Junior  
36 Leagues of California, and others to work together to raise  
37 awareness of the importance of reading to young children and the  
38 importance of independent reading among our pupils and citizens  
39 of California by encouraging everyone to read for 30 minutes for  
40 30 days during the month of March, in conjunction with the Read

- 1 Across America campaign held annually on March 2; and be it
- 2 further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.